Message Text

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REF ANKARA 441

1. SEVERAL ANKARA SCHOOLS CONTINUED TO BE CLOSED BY THEIR ADMINISTRATIONS OR BOYCOTTED BY THEIR STUDENTS. THE SENATE OF HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY HAS NOW DECIDED TO KEEP HACETTEPE CLOSED UNTIL MARCH 1 INSTEAD OF FEBRUARY 1 AS EARLIER ANNOUNCED. ANKARA UNIVERSITY IS ALSO CLOSED UNTIL MARCH 1, ALTHOUGH ITS VARIOUS FACULTIES ARE TO DECIDE ON FEBRUARY 16 WHETHER TO HAVE EXAMINATIONS ON THE CLASS WORK COMPLETED TO DATE. MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU) HAS ENTERED A SCHEDULED RECESS FOLLOWING THE RELATIVELY PEACEFUL COMPLETION OF FINAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ITS SPECIAL MAKE-UP TERM.

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- 2. DESPITE THE SCHOOL CLOSINGS, VIOLENT INCIDENTS
 CONTINUED. ON JANUARY 21, ZEKI YILMAZ, A STUDENT AT
 ANKARA UNIVERSITY'S LANGUAGE, HISTORY, AND GEOGRAPHY
 FACULTY, WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN FRONT OF THE ADVANCED
 TEACHERS SCHOOL. YILMAZ HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE PRESS
 AS A RIGHTIST. HOWEVER, AT A JANUARY 24 PRESS CONFERENCE,
 A REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) SENATOR AND AN RPP
 DEPUTY FROM YILMAZ' HOME PROVINCE ARTVIN ASSERTED THAT
 YILMAZ HAD BEEN KILLED BY FELLOW RIGHTISTS AFTER
 REFUSING TO JOIN IN STUDENT INCIDENTS. ON JANUARY 25
 CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN REPORTED THAT A SUSPECT IN YILMAZ'
 KILLING HAD BEEN APPREHENDED BY THE POLICE.
- 3. THE EVENING OF JANUARY 22, A POLICEMAN AND A WATCHMAN IN MALATYA WEREKILLED AND THREEOTHER PERSONS WOUNDED BY FOUR YOUNG MEN WHO HAD BEEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES. THE FOUR FLED, LEAVING BEHIND WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, LEFTIST LITERATURE (INCLUDING MATERIAL CALLING FOR AN "INDEPENDENT PALESTINE"), AND ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AND METU GRADUATION CERTIFICATES. IN A PRESS STATEMENT THE GOVERNOR OF MALATYA REPORTEDLY IDENTIFIED THE FUGITIVES AS MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (THKO). ACCORDING TO TURKISH STATE RADIO JANUARY 26, THREE SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN A SHOOTOUT NEAR MALATYA. THE FOURTH IS STILL AT LARGE.
- 4. THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 23-24 POLICE IN ANKARA SEARCHED THE OFFICES OF THREE LEFTIST STUDENT GROUPS. FIVE PERSONS WERE TAKEN IN FOR QUESTIONING AND DOCUMENTS WERE TAKEN TO BE EXAMINED. ON JANUARY 24 A PROTEST MARCH "AGAINST FASCISM AND THE STATE SECURITY COURTS" WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH ASSOCIATION (DGB) TOOK PLACE IN ANKARA WITHOUT VIOLENCE. REPORTEDLY SOME 500 YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED. OTHER MINOR INCIDENTS OF CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS ORYOUNG PEOPLE OF OPPOSING VIEWS HAVE RECEIVED ROUTINE TREATMENT IN THE PRESS.
- 5. COMMENT: THE ALLEGED REAPPEARANCE OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IN MALATYA AND THE RECENT ATTACK BY TURKISH SECURITY FORCES ON A GROUP OF ARMED LEFTIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITANTS IN ISTANBUL (REFTEL) ARE DISTURBING REMINDERS OF THE TERRORISM OF THE 1969-1971PERIOD. THESE BLOODY INCIDENTS SEEM TO US, HOWEVER, MORE LIKELY TO BOLSTER THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERMENT'S WILL TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH SUBVERSION AND TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAN TO ENCOURAGE WOULD-BE IMITATORS OF THE DEAD, WOUNDED, CAPTURED OR FLED MILITANTS.

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